

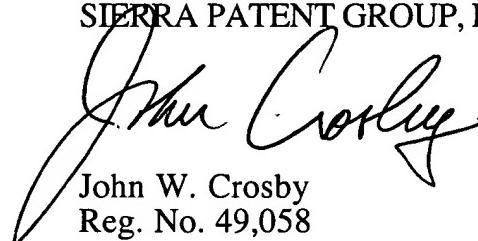
REMARKS

Claims 1-13 (all claims) are rejected in the Office action mailed June 5, 2003. Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Flanders et al. (U.S. Patent 6,041,058). Applicant requests cancellation of claims 6-8. Flanders does not teach, suggest, or otherwise disclose monitoring the mapping of a MAC address to a port by a bridge, and then disallowing broadcast flooding once the mapping has been achieved. Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to more accurately claim this subject matter of the present invention. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and thus contain the limitations of claim 1; likewise claims 10-13 depend from claim 9 and contain the limitations of claim 9. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to place this application in condition for allowance. If Examiner feels that there are any matters that may be resolved by telephone, Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED UP COPY OF THE CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

1. (Currently amended) A method for controlling flooding in a bridged network having a bridge connected to a plurality of networks, said method comprising:

- a) allowing broadcast flooding [for a first limited time period to permit mapping of a MAC address to a port by the bridge] until a mapping of a MAC address to a port is performed by the bridge; and
- b) disallowing broadcast flooding [for a second time period] after the mapping is achieved.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said allowing and disallowing of broadcast flooding is carried out for each MAC address independently.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said bridge maintains a data structure to determine when to allow or disallow broadcast flooding.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said data structure is a filter table.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said filter table contains MAC address information with associated flooding time period.

6. (Cancel) In a bridge device having a plurality of ports, a filtering module comprising:

- c) a flood control unit configured to allow broadcast flooding for a first limited time period, said flood control unit further configured to disallow broadcast flooding for a second time period; and

d) a data structure maintain by said flood control unit configured to maintain flood control data.

7. (Cancel) The filtering module of claim 6, wherein said data structure comprises a filter table containing MAC address information with associated flooding time period.

8. (Cancel) In a bridge device having a plurality of ports, a filtering module comprising:

- a) means for allowing broadcast flooding for a first limited time period;
- b) means for disallowing broadcast flooding for a second time period; and
- c) means for maintaining flood control data operatively coupled to said means for allowing broadcast flooding and said means for disallowing broadcast flooding.

9. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for controlling flooding in a bridged network having a bridge connected to a plurality of networks, said method comprising:

- a) allowing broadcast flooding [for a first limited time period to permit mapping of a MAC address to a port by the bridge] until a mapping of a MAC address to a port is performed by the bridge; and
- b) disallowing broadcast flooding [for a second time period] after the mapping is achieved.

10. (Original) The program storage device of claim 9, wherein said allowing and disallowing of broadcast flooding is carried out for each MAC address independently.

11. (Original) The program storage device of claim 9, wherein said bridge maintains a data structure to determine when to allow or disallow broadcast flooding.
12. (Original) The program storage device of claim 11, wherein said data structure is a filter table.
13. (Original) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein said filter table contains MAC address information with associated flooding time period.